

Alyxia tetanifolia (Apocynaceae), a new species from south-west Western Australia

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Abstract

Cranfield, R.J. *Alyxia tetanifolia* (Apocynaceae), a new species from south-west Western Australia. Nuytsia 10 (1): 103-105 (1995). A new species endemic to the Austin Botanical district of the Eremaean Botanical Province of Western Australia, namely *A. tetanifolia*, is described, illustrated and mapped. A key to Western Australian species of *Alyxia* is provided.

Introduction

A specimen collected in May 1992 during a Kalgoorlie mine site inspection carried out by an environmental scientist for Western Mining Corporation Limited was submitted to the Western Australian Herbarium for identification. Detailed examination showed the material to be a new species of *Alyxia* Banks ex R.Br. (Apocynaceae) a genus previously recognised as having only 2 species in Western Australia.

Taxonomy

Alyxia tetanifolia Cranfield, *sp. nov.* (Figure 1)

Alyxia tetanifolia ab *A. buxifolia* foliis acutis 9-15 mm longis differt.

Typus: NW of Kalgoorlie Nickel Smelter (30° 26'S, 121° 51'E), Western Australia (precise locality withheld), May 1992, *R. Spencer* K19 (holo: PERTH 03634671; iso: BRI, CANB).

Shrub to 2 m high, spreading to 2.5 m, glabrous to sparsely hairy when young; branchlets opposite or in whorls of 2 or 3. *Leaves* opposite, decussate, crowded, spreading horizontally, shortly petiolate; petioles 0.5-1 x 0.5-0.7 mm, hispid; lamina linear, 9-15 x 1.2-1.7 mm, sparsely puberulous adaxially, woolly abaxially, with a prominent sunken mid-rib adaxially; margins revolute; apex acute, with a pungent mucro. *Inflorescence* terminal, pedunculate, 1- or 2-flowered. *Pedicels* 0.5-1 mm long, hispid; bracteoles 2, basal, opposite, obovate, deciduous, 0.3-0.25 x 0.20-0.25 mm, pale brown, with woolly,

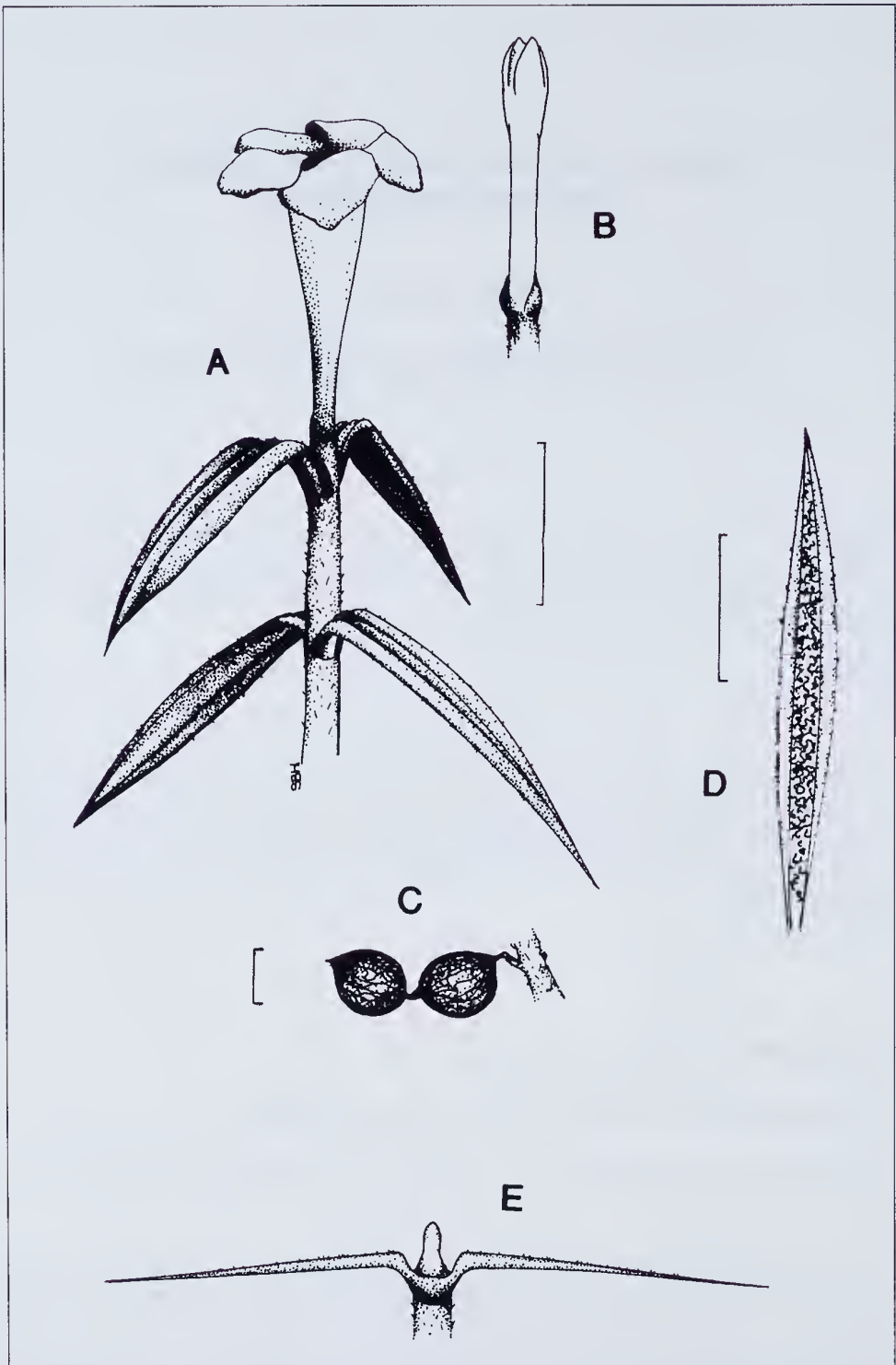


Figure 1. *Alyxia tetanifolia* A - adult leaves and flower, B - flower bud, C - fruit, D - undersurface of leaf, E - vegetative branchlet. Scale bars = 5 mm

ciliate margins and obtuse apex. *Flowers* pedicellate. *Sepals* 5, imbricate, ovate, 0.5-0.6 x 0.5-0.7 mm, glabrous, green; margins ciliate to eciliate; apex acute. *Corolla* white, glabrous externally; tube cylindric 6-6.5 mm long; throat thickened, with a band of simple reflexed hairs; lobes 5, triangular, 1.5 mm long, obtuse. *Stamens* 5, antisepalous, inserted 4-4.5 mm from base of tube; filaments linear, 0.05-0.07 mm long; anthers ovate, 1 x 0.5 mm, apiculate, longitudinally dehiscent, basifixed. *Ovary* ovoid, 1-1.25 x 0.4-0.5 mm, surrounded by basal ring of hairs; carpels 2, free, 1-locular; ovules 2 per locule, c. 0.1 x 0.1 mm; style filiform, c. 5.5 mm long. *Fruit* a drupe of 1 or 2 articles, sometimes superposed, ellipsoid, 7 x 4.5 mm, red. Seed ovoid, c. 4.5-5 x 3-3.5mm, red-brown, heavily textured, dorsally sutured.

Distribution. Endemic to the Austin Botanical District in the Eremaean Botanical Province of Western Australia, where it has been collected at two separate locations and recorded from a third, namely Cane Grass Swamp, 30° 01' 13"S, 121° 28' 06"E (A. Chapman pers. comm.).

Habitat. Interzone between chenopod shrubland fringing a lake and *Eucalyptus* woodland, on loamy sand.

Conservation status. This species is known from three scattered locations where it is frequent at each site. It thus warrants CALM Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora: Priority Two - Poorly Known Taxa, and the category 2R of Briggs & Leigh (1988).

Etymology. The specific epithet is from *tetanus* and *folium*, Latin for rigid and leaf.

Other specimen examined. WESTERN AUSTRALIA: 'Diemals', W edge of Lake Barlee system, anno 1993, H. Pringle 30261 (PERTH).

Key to Western Australian species of *Alyxia*

1. Flowers terminal, solitary or clustered
 2. Leaves obtuse, 12-25 mm long *A. buxifolia*
 2. Leaves pungent, 9-15 mm long *A. tetanifolia*
1. Flowers axillary, inflorescence spike like *A. spicata*

Acknowledgement

The latin description was kindly prepared by Dr R. Cowan.

Reference

- Briggs, J. & J. Leigh(1988). "Rare or Threatened Australian Plants." Revised edn. (Australian National Parks & Wildlife Service: Canberra.)